

“This I Believe” Personal Essay

Hoping that their own children would strive harder and aim higher, I am sure many parents have told their children, “It’s YOUR future; you’ve got to earn what you want,” and this includes my parents. I doubt I really understood what they meant then, but at least I am now starting to realise the need to “earn what I want”. The thing that bothers me most is that whenever I ask myself, “Have I given it my best effort in achieving my goals?” I end up reproaching myself for the rest of the day. I believe I have the responsibility to take initiative and make effort to pave my own path, not to wait for chances to come. I believe in making things happen, not waiting for things to happen.

My parents once told me that I was an interesting child when young. I agree with them in a way as I still have a vivid memory of myself sitting before the window for hours, praying for the rain to stop. Yes, I felt naïve then as no one can stop the rain as they like. However, as I think about it, I WAS naïve, but at least I was giving it my all and trying all ways to make something I want happen. Then I question myself, “Why didn’t I have this energy when I was older?”

When I grew older, I guess I really got used to my carefree childhood. Everyday, it was cartoons and playing for the entire afternoon. Even with so much time spent on fun and games, I was still able to excel in studies, giving me the idea that: ‘Hey, I can achieve my goals without working hard, so why tire myself?’ I was no longer focused on my goals because of a seemingly harmless mindset that “everything will go well”. I was wrong.

As I entered Primary 5, with PSLE studies and CCA to juggle, my “carefree lifestyle” drove things down hill. I wanted to excel in studies, but ended up barely passing math. I wanted to perform well in CCA, but ended up deproving. These things happen as I did nothing to achieve my goals. I should have known that

without effort and initiative, nothing can be accomplished. I can only blame myself.

Thankfully, I pulled myself together and quickly pulled up my socks for my run towards PSLE. I still aimed to achieve good results, but my main goal was just to give it all I got for it. I believe with this main goal, nothing was impossible.

We are like farmers, we reap what we sow, thus we need to put in effort and take initiative for anything to go well. Ever wondered how some people are able to excel in everything they do? I have, and I learnt that it's not necessarily because they are natural talents, but most of the time, it is because they have put in hard work and gave their best in doing everything.

(499 words)

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Class 307